

No-Mow Areas – Frequently Asked Questions

Nashotah Park Entrance

Why is the grass dead near the Nashotah Park entrance?

The turf along the entrance road is being converted from non-native cool season grass into a native prairie planting that will sustainably benefit a variety of pollinators and other wildlife. In order to establish the native plants, the existing cool season grass and all existing weed seeds in the soil need to be removed. This is most efficiently accomplished by spraying the area with herbicide several times over the growing season, and then lightly tilling the soil to prepare the ground for the new native prairie plants. The herbicide will not harm nearby trees and will not be applied on nearby trails. The area will remain brown through fall when it will be seeded with the native plants.

What are the benefits of no-mow areas?

No-mow native plantings provide habitat for birds, pollinators, and other insects, in addition to adding the beauty of blooming flowers to the parks landscape. Planting native plants reduces fuel use, the need for watering, and reduces long-term maintenance costs compared to turf grass. No-mow areas that are enhanced by planting native plant species also help improve storm water management by slowing runoff, reducing erosion, and increasing water infiltration. No-mow areas have been a component of the [County's Sustainability Plan](#) since 2007. To date, there has been over 300 acres of no-mow areas designated in the parks and on County grounds and facilities.

When can we expect the prairie to be established?

Please be patient; it is normal to see slow growth of the native plants. Although you will see some blooms as early as the following summer, it takes several years for the native plants to become fully established. Please stay on designated trails as it is being prepared and after planting to give the prairie the best chance at flourishing. Once established, the prairie planting will take on its full natural beauty and you can expect to observe a variety of our valuable native pollinators and birds utilizing the area for food and shelter.



Example of non-native grass removal



Example of early growing stages



Example of established prairie

(more)



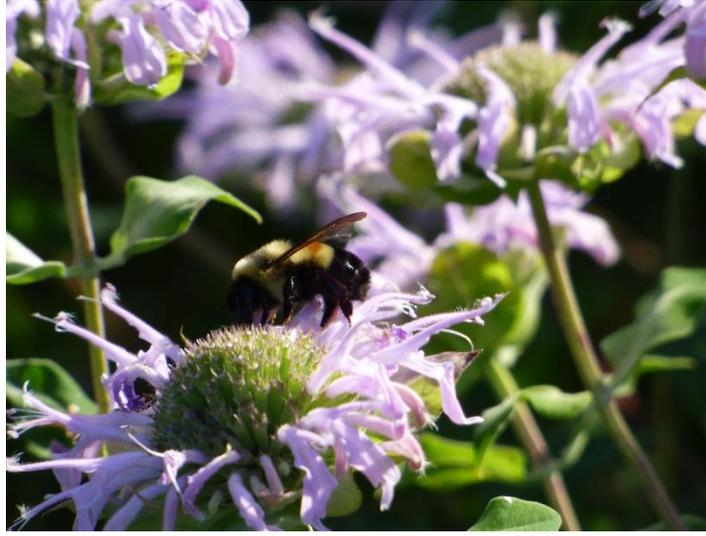
Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

What will be planted here?

A variety of native wildflowers and grasses will be planted, including: Shooting Star, Asters, Wild Columbine, Butterfly Weed, Goldenrods, Rattlesnake Master, Prairie Blazing Star, Black-Eyed Susan, Prairie Dropseed and more!



Example of native wildflowers



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, a federally endangered species, on native plant

Where can I find more information about this project?

For questions or comments, visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/currentparkprojects, or call Waukesha County Park System at **(262) 548-7790**.

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